

USE FM'S TUESDAY, 4/7/64

Several months ago Chairman William Dawson directed the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations and Government Information to study the use of polygraphs -- commonly referred to as lie-detectors -- in the Federal Government. The directive was based on the mandate of the Government Operations Committee to study the operations of Government activities at all levels with a view of determining economy and efficiency.

As the first step in the study, a questionnaire was sent to 58 Federal departments and agencies to determine whether they use polygraphs and, if so, the extent and conditions of the use. According to the responses received, 19 agencies used polygraphs during Fiscal Year 1963. These 19 agencies owned 512 polygraphs which were acquired at a cost of more than \$425,000. Some 639 examiners were hired to operate the instruments, and operating costs -- which are rising annually -- now approach \$4½ million.

Detailed answers to the questionnaire and a summary of the replies are contained in the Committee Print entitled, "Use of Polygraphs by the Federal Government". This preliminary study shows that these devices are used under widely varying conditions in the Federal Government. The training and qualifications of polygraph examiners differ substantially from agency to agency as do the controls exercised on the use of the instruments.

Serious questions have been raised by responsible persons as to whether the polygraph is, indeed, an instrument which should be used for any purpose. If used, what should be the extent and conditions of its use?

The Subcommittee has neither condemned nor condoned the use of polygraphs by the Federal Government. The inquiry is designed to develop as much factual information as possible to clarify the problems involved in the use of polygraphs. The hearings will begin today with a panel discussion with nationally recognized experts on the use of polygraphs. On the following days we will take testimony from representatives of some Federal agencies which use polygraphs. By a careful, objective study of the problem we hope to point the way to possible solutions.

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April 7, 1964

The following witnesses are scheduled to appear April 7, 1964 before the Foreign Operations and Government Information Subcommittee to discuss the use of polygraphs in the Federal Government. Hearings are to be held in Room B-300, Rayburn House Office Building, at 10:00 A.M.

Mr. Fred E. Inbau,
Northwestern University School of Law;

Mr. Cleve Backster,
School of Lie Detection, New York;

Mr. John E. Reid,
John E. Reid and Associates, Chicago, Ill.

Mr. George Lindberg,
John E. Reid and Associates, Chicago, Ill.

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